REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed October 24, 2002, claims 1-5 and 7-35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sparks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,382). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

In response to the Action, claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, and 35 are amended. Claims 1-5 and 7-35 are pending and under consideration.

Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the Claims is included herewith.

Sparks discusses design and production of print advertising and commercial display materials over the internet. Sparks discusses providing "thumbnail" images on a display, for selection by a user (refer to cols. 6 and 11 of Sparks).

In contrast to Sparks, the index images that present invention displays are home pages, as disclosed in the present specification. That is, the index image of the present invention displays a home page by a single picture.

Each of independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 32 recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "an index image displays a home page".

Moreover, each of independent claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31, and 32 recites (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "an index image displays a home page"..."by a single picture".

Sparks, in contrast, discloses that the images displayed are "thumbnails".

Moreover, dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12-14, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 33-35 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 3/1 recites "wherein the storing section stores the display file related to the display control file, and wherein the index image displays the home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by the single picture".

The foregoing features of the present invention are not disclosed or suggested by Sparks.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested

to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims 1-4, 7, 9, 11, 15-17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31-32, 34, and 35

1.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file including a character string and a control character string for controlling [the] a display, wherein the display control file is provided with a client according to a request from the client;

a holding section holding an index image [displaying a single picture to be display] which displays a home page displayed according to the display control file and a display file relating to the display control file by a single picture; and

a providing section providing an index image held by the holding section according to a request from a searching server, wherein the providing section provides, to the searching server, an index image to be included in a searched result corresponding to a searching request that the searching server receives from the client, the searched result including the index image is provided from the searching server to the client.

2.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, further comprising an index image creating section creating [an] the index image on the basis of the display control file.

3.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, wherein the storing section stores [a] the display file related to the display control file, and wherein the index image displays [contents] the home page displayed [by] on the basis of the display control file and the display file by the single picture.

4.   (TWICE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file relating to a home page held by an information providing server, comprising:

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to each file received from the information providing server wherein each index image displays a home page relating to each file by a single picture;

a storing section storing the index image created by the index image creating section;

a receiving section receiving a searching request from the client;

a searching section searching a file corresponding to the searching request, obtaining an index image corresponding to the searched file from said storing section, and generating a searched result corresponding to the searching request, the searched result including the obtained index image and link information to be [access to] accessed by the information providing server; and

a transmitting section transmitting, to the client, the searched result generated by said searching section.

5.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 4, wherein the transmitting section transmits the index image, the link information and a corresponding file received from the information providing server to the client.

7.   (TWICE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held an information providing server, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each [file] home page held by the information providing server;

a searching section extracting an element information corresponding to a searching request given from the client from the element information storage section;

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to the element information extracted by the searching section wherein the created index image displays a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the created index image, as a response corresponding to the searching request, created by the index image creating section to the client.

8.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 7, further comprising a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted by said searching section and the index image created by said index image creating section,

wherein the transmitting section transmitting a searched result including a display control file, as the response corresponding to the request, created by the display control file creating section to the client.

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9.   (TWICE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with files held by a plurality of information providing servers, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of each [file] home page held by each of the information providing servers;

an index image creating section creating and holding an index image corresponding to element information of each [file] home page collected by said element information storage section wherein the index image displays a home page corresponding to the element information by a single picture;

a searching section extracting, from the index image creating section, an index image corresponding to a searching request given from the client; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the index image extracted by the searching section, as a response to the searching request to the client.

10.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 9, wherein the searching section extracts, from the element information storage section, element information corresponding to the searching request given from the client,

the mediation server further comprises a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted and an index image corresponding to the element information, and

the transmitting section transmits to the client a searching result including the display control file, as a response to the searching request, created by the display control file creating section.

11.   (TWICE AMENDED) A reference terminal for referring to a file of a home page, the file is held by an information providing server and including a display control file and a display file related to the display control file, comprising:

a transmitting/receiving section transmitting a searching request of the file to a mediation server and receiving a searched result from the mediation server;

an index image creating section automatically creating an index image [for displaying each of contents of] which displays a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file received from the information providing server by a single picture, wherein the display control file and the display file [corresponding] corresponds to the searched result; and

a display section displaying contents of the searched result received from the mediation

server together with the index image.

12.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section sequentially displays the plurality of index images created while being changed over.

13.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section displays the plurality of index images and a piece of character information included in the searched result in arrangement on the same window.

14.   (AS UNAMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates the index images corresponding to each of the files received in accordance with a predetermined priority, and

the display control section sequentially displays the plurality of created index images in the sequence of being created by the index image creating section.

15.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file including a display character string and a control character string for controlling a display, comprising:

creating an index image displaying [contents] a home page displayed [by] on the basis of the display control file by a single picture; and

transmitting an index image created together with the display control file to a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request form a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching requesting including the display control file and the index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

16.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server with a display control file and a display file [relate]

relating to the display control file, comprising:

creating an index image displaying [contents] a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

transmitting the index image together with the display control file to a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

17.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server comprising:

obtaining element information of each [file] home page held an information providing server;

extracting a piece element information corresponding to a search request given from a client among the obtained element information;

creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image which displays a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and

transmitting the searched result including the created index image to the client.

18.   (as ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 17, further comprising:

creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image; and

transmitting the searched result including the display control file to the client.

19.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server, comprising:

obtaining and storing element information of [files] home pages held by an information providing server;

creating and holding index images which respectively display a home page corresponding to each of the stored element information by a single picture;

extracting an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client from the held index images; and

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transmitting a search result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image to the client.

20.   (as ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 19, further comprising:

extracting a piece of element information corresponding to the extracted index image among the stored element information ;

creating a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image; and

transmitting a searched result including the created display control file to the client.

21.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal, comprising:

receiving a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a searching server;

receiving a file corresponding to the searched result from an information providing server, the received file containing a display control file and a display file ;

automatically creating an index image displaying [contents of] a home page on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

displaying the created index image together with the searched result.

22.   (as ONCE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal according to claim 21, further comprising displaying contents of the received file together with the index image.

23.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, [wherein] the programs [comprises] comprising:

a program by which an information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, [display contents] a home page on the basis of a display control file including a display character string and control character string for controlling displaying; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result

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corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

24.   (AS UNAMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

25.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, [wherein] the programs [comprises] comprising:
a program by which the information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, [display contents] a home page on the basis of a display control file and a display file relating to the display control file ; and
a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation transmits to a client a searched result including the index image corresponding to a searching request from the client.

26.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

27.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, [wherein] the programs [comprises] comprising:
a program by which a mediation server collects a piece of element information of each file held by an information providing server;
a program by which the mediation server extracts a piece of element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information ;
a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image which displays a home page corresponding to the extracted element information by a single picture; and
a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created index image to the client.

28.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the programs further comprises:

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image ; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created display control file to the client.

29.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which a mediation server collects a plurality of element information of files held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server creates index images which respectively display a home page corresponding to each of the collected element information ;

a program by which the mediation server extracts an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the created index images and generates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client.

30.   (as ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the programs further comprising:

a program by which the mediation server extracts an element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information ;

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the extracted index image file; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result to the client.

31.   (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with a program executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which the reference terminal receives a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a mediation server;

a program by which the reference terminal receives from an information providing server

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a display control file and display file related to the display control file corresponding to the searched result;

a program by which the reference terminal automatically creates an index image displaying [contents] a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

a program by which the reference terminal displays the created index image together with the searched result.

32.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server, providing a client with [information] a home page including image and text according to a request of the client, comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file for displaying [a text and an image] the home page on a screen of the client;

a holding section holding a piece of index image data [corresponding to the information] for displaying a home page displayed on the basis of the display control file by a single picture; and

a providing section providing the index image data with a mediation server in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from the client, creates a searched result including display control file and an index image corresponding to the searching request that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

33.   (AS UNAMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, further comprising:

a creating section creating the index image data based on the display control file.

34.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the index image data includes a piece of data for displaying [an image] the home page in which a display size of [an image] the home page displayed on the basis of the display control file on a screen of the client [as the information] is reduced.

35.   (TWICE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein [the information is provided as a home page, and] the index image displays [a text and an image displayed on a first page of a] the home page by a display size smaller than an original

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size [of the first page].

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